

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00097 040813Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

IO-11 AID-05 /080 W

----- 040725

R 021600Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4921

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0097

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF

SUBJ: NEW INTERNAL SECURITY COMMISSION TO BE CREATED

REF: CAPE TOWN 0088

1. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAS INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO  
CREATE PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY INTERNAL SECURITY COMMISSION.  
BILL, WHICH ASSURED OF PASSAGE, CALLS FOR STATE PRESIDENT TO  
APPOINT NOT MORE THAN TEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO COMMISSION  
WHICH WILL THEN INVESTIGATE WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS AFFECTING  
INTERNAL SECURITY. REPORTS OF COMMISSION TO STATE PRESIDENT  
WILL BE KEPT SECRET IF PRIME MINISTER, AFTER CONSULTATION  
WITH LEADER OF OPPOSITION, DETERMINES THAT TO DISCLOSE  
CONTENTS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO PUBLIC INTEREST. COMMISSION  
WILL HAVE SUBPEONA POWERS AND AN INDIVIDUAL WHO REFUSES  
TO TESTIFY WITHOUT SUFFICIENT CAUSE, "THE ONUS OF PROOF WHICH  
SHALL REST UPON HIM", OR WHO GIVES FALSE EVIDENCE, OR  
WHO "WILLFULLY INTERRUPTS OR HINDERS OR OBSTRUCTS" THE  
WORK OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE SUBJECT TO CRIMINAL PROSECU-  
TION AND PENALTIES OF FINE OR IMPRISONMENT. OPPOSITION  
CLAIMS GOVERNMENT ALREADY HAS POWERS ADEQUATE FOR INTERNAL  
SECURITY, AND NEW COMMISSION WOULD MERELY ADD TO SECRETIVE-  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00097 040813Z

NESS AND ABUSE.

2. NEW COMMISSION WAS RECOMMENDED IN FIRST INTERIM REPORT OF SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION IN 1973. UNITED PARTY MEMBERS OF COMMISSION ENDOORSED RECOMMENDATION MUCH TO DISCOMFORT OF UP'S LIBERAL ELEMENTS. SPLIT OVER CIVIL LIBERTIES ISSUE LED, IN PART, TO DEFECTION OF REFORMISTS IN EARLY 1975, AND IS REPORTEDLY STILL A LARGE BONE OF CONTENTION WITHIN UP CAUCUS. LEADER OF UP, SIR DE VILLERS GRAAF, TOLD PRESS OVER WEEK-END THAT UP WOULD NOT SUPPORT BILL AS IT CURRENTLY STANDS. GRAAF SAID MAJOR OBJECTION IS THAT COMMISSION SHOULD BE APPOINTED DIRECTLY BY PARLIAMENT AND BE RESPONSIBLE TO IT, RATHER THAN TO STATE PRESIDENT. GRAAF ALSO SAID THAT UP OPPOSED COMMISSION'S POSSIBLE USURPATION OF JUDICIAL AUTHORITY. OTHER CRITICS HAVE NOTED THAT BILL MAKES NO PROVISION FOR COMMISSION WITNESSES TO HAVE RIGHT OF COUNSEL, CROSS-EXAMINATION, ETC. AND IN EFFECT, FOLLOWS PATTERN ESTABLISHED BY SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION. PRP SPOKESWOMEN MP HELEN SUZMAN TOLD PRESS THAT "WE DO NOT NEED SECRET COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE MATTERS WHICH THE STATE PRESIDENT-- THAT IS, THE CABINET--IS UNABLE TO EXPOSE IN A COURT OF LAW."

3. COMMENT: DEBATE ON BILL WILL BE HEATED AND IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT FURTHER INSINUATIONS ABOUT LYALTY AND PATRIOTISM OF PRP MEMBERS SUCH AS THAT VOICED BY PM VORSTER IN JAN 31 NO CONFIDENCE DEBATE (REFTEL) WILL BE REPEATED. DOUBTFUL THAT SAG WILL ADOPT ANY OF UP IDEAS TO AMEND BILL. ONCE PASSED, UP WILL BE FACED WITH DILEMMA WHETHER TO ALLOW MEMBERS TO ACCEPT APPOINTMENT TO COMMISSION. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT UP WILL GIVE SUCH PERMISSION, ASSERTING THAT UP PRESENCE ON COMMISSION WILL BE MODERATING INFLUENCE.  
BOWDLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ANTICOMMUNIST, NATIONAL SECURITY, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LEGISLATIVE BILLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976CAPET00097  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760041-0971  
**From:** CAPE TOWN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760292/aaaaddja.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 CAPE TOWN 88  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** blochd0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2004 by blochd0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW INTERNAL SECURITY COMMISSION TO BE CREATED  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, SF, (VORSTER, BALHAZAR J)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006